

# EACC NEWS

The East Asia Christian Conference is an organ of continuing fellowship and co-operation among the Churches and Christian Councils in East Asia.

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## STRATEGY PROPOSED TO ASSIST E. PAKISTAN

BANGKOK - There are real possibilities of service even in the continuing worsening needs of East Pakistan, according to a report released here on November 6. Indigenous organizations can be utilized and it is recognized that the churches have always been active in the area of social service and community development.

The strategy to implement assistance was worked out when Dr. Muherman Harun, seconded by the EACC and Special Relief Representative of the East Pakistan Christian Council (EPCC), Mr. Samuel M. Isaac, Coordinator of the Committee on Justice and Service and U Kyaw Than, General Secretary conferred together.

During the past nine weeks, Dr. Harun had travelled alone or in the company of EPCC personnel, in the districts of Dacca, Faridpur, Barisal, Chittagong, Chittagong Hill Tracts and Myemensingh in E. Pakistan. From his observations and work with the EPCC and the United Nations East Pakistan Relief Operation. Dr. Harun was asked by the EPCC to bring recommendations to the EACC and the World Council of Churches with regard to spheres of action and to implement decisions.

The strategy of assistance, both immediate and long range, proposed using the churches as operating units and employing people for project organizers and community workers to carry out the planning and implementation in East Pakistan. The EPCC have recommended the establishment of programme which will help needy people in exchange for labour contributed towards community self-help projects.

Assistance to be given would include immediately the investigation and planning of seed distribution in the areas where next month's harvest is already affected by the floods. There is the possibility of establishing seed loan banks through the local churches. In places of acute need, agricultural cattle could be made available on loan subsidy arrangements. Assistance will also be given to Christian and other medical institutions for the procurement of drugs and supplies; aid to social institutions such as, orphanages, homes for destitute women and children. The churches will be encouraged to undertake more of these responsibilities where necessary. Long range plans include the support of a newly established Rural Training Centre at Khuligram and also of the older Rangunia Rural Training Centre for tribal people.

Dr. Harun observed that crisis conditions obtaining in East Pakistan, continue to deepen. Food is not easily available and people are going hungry. Malnutrition is increasing in the lowland areas. The cost of food has increased a great deal; people are without work as well-to-do business men have departed. The floods in Faridpur and Barisal, stated to be the worst in 17 years, had wiped out crops to have been harvested in December and the harvest for last June was sparse due to the disturbances. Transportation and communication continue to be seriously disrupted.

At the conclusion of the Bangkok report on East Pakistan was the following observation: "The above measures for assistance to people in their needs, and for the restoration of self-reliance and dignity, are only part of the task of the churches in seeking ways of promoting a return to normalcy of the situation in East Pakistan. The larger and more intrinsic task of helping in the establish-



ment of a just peace and harmony among the people of Pakistani is an equally important responsibility of the churches."

The plan of strategy will be presented at the Emergencies Sub-Committee meeting of the Commission on Inter-Church Aid, Refugee and World Service in Montreux from November 15 - 19 by U Kyaw Than.

#### SAM ISAAC TRAVELS

EACC - Mr. Samuel M. Isaac, Co-ordinator for the EACC Programme on Justice and Service of the EACC returned on October 31 from an extended visit to Japan, Korea and Hong Kong in the interests of the concerns of his committee.

The Committee on Justice and Service is responsible for the work of Inter-Church Aid, Medical Mission, Refugee Work, Development, Social Diakonia, Urban-Industrial Mission and International Affairs. During his visits Mr. Isaac conferred with the National Christian Council, Medical, UIM and International Affairs leaders.

In Seoul on October 25 he met with Mr. Oh Jae-Shik and the Rev. John C. England, Secretaries for UIM and Life and Action Programme of the EACC respectively, to further implement and co-ordinate the programme of the EACC in these concerns.

There was a real welcome in the National Christian Councils for the separation of Mission and Service in the EACC, Mr. Isaac said. New discussions regarding missionary enterprise had brought out that full time attention is needed to be given to the missions issue. On the other hand in Inter-Church Aid it was now possible for the Secretary to give full attention to the planning of projects and the training of personnel to develop them. "It might well be that my chief contribution would be working alongside leaders as they develop plans and strategy for projects", Mr. Isaac said.

The Continuation Committee had authorized the Inter-Church Aid Secretary to see to the need for training personnel involved in service and development projects among the churches, to locate training facilities and provide financial support as necessary.

Mr. Isaac consulted medical leaders in each country and in discussions with them, discussed the plans for the exchange of medical personnel to needy places; the education of medical students in specialized schools in the region; and the opportunities for medical students to be involved in health oriented work during vacations in order to gain more knowledge of the real health needs of the people of developing countries.

The coordination of the various concerns under the umbrella of Justice and Service is a part of the 'new look' of the EACC.

#### SE ASIAN NATIONS MUST CHANGE CULTURE TO ENTER NEW DAY

REUTER - Nations of South and Southeast Asia must change their cultural patterns and value systems if they are to compete with other countries in the advanced industrial age, according to Singapore's Prime Minister Lee Kuan Yew, who spoke in Cambridge, England on November 10, a Reuter release said.

Disillusionment and near-despair were afflicting the less developed countries in Southern Asia, and it would require bold, determined leadership to change the situation, he said.

The Prime Minister drew a distinction between what had been called 'soft' societies of Southern Asia, including Burma, Thailand, Laos and Cambodia, and the 'hard' cultures of East Asian nations like China, Korea, Japan, and Vietnam, which could meet modern industrial challenges.



"It is in part the difference between the more intense and exacting cultures of E. Asia and the less intense and demanding values of Hindu culture in South and Southeast Asia that accounts for the difference in industrial programme between East and Southern Asia", Mr. Lee said.

He said it would be impossible to move from Asia's pastoral-type economies - equivalent to those of 15th and 16th century Western Europe - without jettisoning parts of old cultural patterns.

"Industrial status can be achieved only if new value systems and behaviour patterns are grafted on the old," said Mr. Lee.

#### 'ROLE OF HEALTH' CONFERENCE ANNOUNCED

BANGKOK - Preliminary planning for the first joint conference of the Catholic Medical Organizations (CMO) and the Christian Medical Associations (CMA) in Asia is underway. The joint announcement went out this week from Dr. Lert Sirichand, member of the Asian Regional Executive Committee of the International Federation of Catholic Medical Organizations (FIAMC) and U Kyaw Than, General Secretary of the EACC.

"The Role of Health in the Development of Nations" is the theme of the conference which plans to bring together in Bangkok two hundred participants from the Roman Catholic Church and the EACC members during the first week of December 1972.

The purpose of the conference is to provide opportunity for doctors, nurses and para-medical workers in Asia to come together to study and discuss in depth, the common issues and challenges the church as a whole and these particular church members in Asia are facing in the present times. They are to study and discuss the pressing problems and needs on health and national demographical development in relation to population growth and the rate of increase of medical and para-medical services. Finally they will try to effect regional cooperation among the members of the CMO's and the CMA's and other related organizations in Asia at the national levels.

The signatories to the announcement called for the support of the National Christian Councils and the Hierarchy of the Roman Catholic Church and said, "In making this initial joint announcement, we are happy that the Lord of the Church has provided us with this opportunity to think together about the Churches' role, particularly in the field of health as our nations proceed from one development stage to another."

The joint ecumenical conference on health is a natural outcome of the joint conference on Development held in Tokyo in July, 1970. Dr. Eduardo Villegas, one of the Consultants of the EACC Justice and Service Programme, a member of the Catholic Church and Executive Director of the joint Commission set up by the Catholic/NCCP and related institutions in Philippines, is the staff member who will carry the organizational responsibilities in preparing this Conference.

#### INTER-CHURCH AID COMMISSION MEETS

GENEVA - Development projects, concerns in Vietnam and aid to emergency situations of special interest to Asia, are items on the agenda of the Commission on Inter-Church Aid, Refugee and World Service (CICARWS) of the World Council of Churches, presently meeting in Montreux, Switzerland, November 15 - 19.

The Commission will determine which development projects would be within the purview of Inter-Church Aid and which would be under the commission on the Churches' Participation in Development. They will also decide on projects which would be under the combined responsibility of the two commissions. A proposal from the EACC Continuation Committee will seek support for a seminar and workshop



for about 30 key persons from among the churches and councils in Asia who are responsible for planning and evaluating service and development projects.

The Vietnam Sub-Committee will meet with its new Chairman, Mr. Yap Thiam Hien, Advocate from Djakarta, who was present in Bangkok at the recent meeting of the Asian Christian Service Reference Committee. Information and work of ACS and Vietnam Christian Service in Vietnam will be received and support for their programmes sought.

The Emergencies Sub-Committee will be taking up the report on East Pakistan and these concerns will be brought to the Commission for support also.

CICARWS endeavours to facilitate mutual aid between the churches, especially in service to men in need. The Commission is made up of representatives from the six continents.

#### CHURCH UNION FOR CEYLON

COLOMBO - All is clear for Church Union in Ceylon. This week the negotiating committee for Church Union in Ceylon is meeting to work out the strategy for unification which is now definitely scheduled for 1972.

The Ceylon Methodist Church which had been in the negotiations for some forty years had, in 1969 held back from entering the union for want of the required majority. But in the Annual Session of 1970 and again in August, 1971 the Scheme received the required vote.

The first week of November the Diocesan Council of the Church of Ceylon (Anglican) voted in favour of Church Union. Although they had previously taken a vote in favour it was subject to the approval of the other churches. This completes the process of receiving approval of the negotiating churches.

Five churches have now accepted the Church of Lanka Scheme for Church Union: The Anglican Church in Ceylon, the Jaffna Diocese of the Church of South India, the Baptist Sangamaya and the Methodist Church.

... The Rt. Rev. Cyril Linden Abeynaike is the newly consecrated Bishop of Colombo and successor to the late Bishop Harold de Soysa.

#### TENTATIVE SCHEDULE OF EACC AND RELATED MEETINGS, 1972

The Executive Committee of the World Council of Churches	February 15 - 22	Auckland, New Zealand
Urban Industrial Mission Committee	March 13 - 15	Djakarta, Indonesia
Commission on Inter-Church Aid, Refugee and World Service	June 26 - 30	not finalized
Staff of the EACC	June 3 - 6	Seoul, Korea or Hong Kong
Special Ecumenical Fund	June 7	ditto
Working Committee of the EACC	June 8 - 13	ditto
Central Committee of the World Council of Churches	August 13 - 23	Netherlands
Conference on the "Role of Health in Development" - Christian Medical Organizations	December (first week)	Bangkok
Commission on World Mission and Evangelism, WCC	December 29 - January 12	Bangkok
Fifth Assembly of the EACC	During first half of June	Singapore